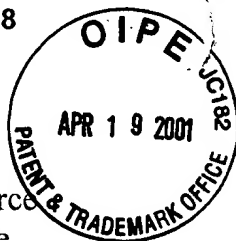


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April 16, 2001

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, DC 20231

Reference: Application 09/655792, Primary Examiner Stanley Witkowski

To Whom It May Concern:

The undersigned inventor requests, or petitions, for a 30 day time extension for replying to the patent office requested response to the referenced patent application.

Enclosed is a check for the \$55.00 fee required for the 30 day time extension appropriate for a small entity. With this extension, we understand that our response will be due on or before May 24, 2001 and that our response should be directed to the referenced examiner at this same address.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Bernard H. Browne, Jr.

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